

**What is claimed is:**

1. A system for implementing a policy in a network, said system comprising:  
a device-agnostic policy implementation;  
a plurality of network devices, at least two of said devices being dissimilar; and  
5 a plurality of device translators, each device translator corresponding to a  
respective one of said plurality of network devices, at least two of said device translators  
being dissimilar, each of said plurality of device translators translating said device-  
agnostic policy implementation into corresponding device-specific implementations.
2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said device-agnostic policy  
10 implementation is selected from the group consisting of firewall, Virtual Private Network,  
Java 2 Enterprise Edition Application, and custom operating system.
3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said device-agnostic policy  
implementation implements a policy selected from the group consisting of access control,  
quality of service, backup, and availability.
- 15 4. The system according to claim 1, wherein said device translators are represented  
by Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) code.
5. The system according to claim 1, wherein said device-agnostic policy  
implementation is Extensible Markup Language (XML) code.
6. The system according to claim 3, wherein said policy is represented by Extensible  
20 Markup Language (XML) code.
7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the device-specific implementation is  
represented by Command Line Interface (CLI) code.
8. The system according to claim 1, wherein the device-specific implementation is  
represented by Application Programming Interface (API) code.
- 25 9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the device-specific implementation is  
represented by Java code.
10. A method comprising:  
representing a vendor-agnostic configuration;  
building a translator for a specific policy and vendor;  
30 identifying a device;  
loading said translator; and  
translating said vendor-agnostic configuration into vendor-specific configuration  
using said translator.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said vendor-agnostic configuration is represented by Extensible Markup Language (XML) code.
12. The method according to claim 10, wherein said translator is represented by Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) code.
- 5 13. The system according to claim 10, wherein said specific policy is selected from the group consisting of firewall, Virtual Private Network, Java 2 Enterprise Edition Application, and custom operating system.
14. The system according to claim 10, wherein said specific policy is selected from the group consisting of access control, quality of service, backup, and availability.
- 10 15. The system according to claim 10, wherein the vendor-specific configuration is represented by Command Line Interface (CLI) code.
16. The system according to claim 10, wherein the vendor-specific configuration is represented by Application Programming Interface (API) code.
17. The system according to claim 10, wherein the vendor-specific configuration is represented by Java code.
- 15 18. A computer readable medium containing instructions for implementing a policy in a computer network, said instructions comprising:
- representing a vendor-agnostic configuration;
  - building a translator for a specific policy and vendor;
  - 20 identifying a device;
  - loading said translator; and
  - translating said vendor-agnostic configuration into vendor-specific configuration using said translator.